

OCAO FY2007 Year in Review

OCAO Major Accomplishments



Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute

The new Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute (TSMRI) provides a scientific research facility to support NOAA's marine sciences in Alaska.

The new Juneau facility at Lena Point replaces an outdated and overcrowded facility at Auke Bay.

The new \$51M, 66,600 GSF laboratory will accommodate approximately 80 employees and is designed to be a catalyst to support the future growth of the Alaskan fisheries industry.

The project was successfully managed by PPMD's staff in Seattle and was formally

handed over to the users on May 1st, 2007.

The facility includes office and laboratory space. In addition to chemistry, genetics and biology labs, the center has a large wet lab, a necropsy room for large fish and shark, an ichthyology lab and 2 large freezers. The indoor wet lab provides up to 1,200 gpm of filtered and unfiltered sea water.

The center also has space for a 4,000 SF outdoor wet lab adjacent to the indoor wet lab. 400 gpm of sea water will be shared with the University of Fairbanks' new fisheries school when it opens in 2008.



NOAA Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute at Lena Point, Juneau, Alaska.
Photo by John Hudson
For more information contact Ken Bircher, Project Manager PPMD-WR.

New Administration Building at Beaufort, NC

The newly completed administration building at the Center for Coastal Fisheries & Habitat Research (CCFHR) in Beaufort, NC, is designed to accommodate a new state-of-the-art library, collaborative teaching laboratory, additional office space and a 125-person audi-

torium. Although the facility is primarily used by NOAA, some of the facilities are shared with the North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve (NCNERR).

The project includes a 15,844 GSF building, two parking lots and sidewalks at a cost of

\$5.83M. This contemporary two-story steel structure building with steel lap siding and metal roof was detailed to respect and make reference to the historic coastal architecture of the surrounding community.

The new office space in the Administration Building allowed many scientists to vacate existing labs, thus freeing valuable space for additional research opportunities. Previously, scientists used some lab space as offices creating an underutilization of highly technical areas in the facility.

For more information contact John Battle, Project Manager PPMD-ER.



Inside this issue:

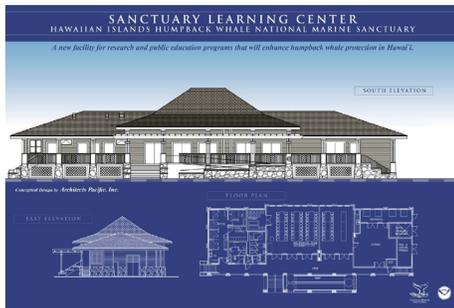
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Message from the CAO

FY2007 was a year of challenges and accomplishments for our organization; doing more (and better) with limited resources continues to be part of our daily reality. Effective management of many of NOAA's most important corporate programs and initiatives—facilities (including investment planning, project planning/execution, leasing, building management and logistics support); personal property; deemed exports; business process reengineering; safety and environmental compliance; audit liaison; FOIA; civil rights and EEO; executive correspondence; administrative issuances; and new initiatives such as homeport planning and new security badging requirements—makes the work each of you do essential to NOAA's mission success. The items covered in the FY2007 Year in Review are highlights of these accomplishments. They reflect well on our individual and corporate achievements, and set the baseline for OCAO service levels in 2008.

Bill Broglie, Chief Administrative Officer



PPMD Statistics for 2007

Design/Study Awards	\$ 6,027,700
Construction Awards	\$ 40,410,200
Construction Completed	\$ 84,785,700
Total	\$131,223,400

Project Planning & Management Division Accomplishments in FY2007

According to the *Briefing to OMB*, dated September 2007, the Project Planning and Management Division (PPMD) completed 27 backlog facilities repair and modernization projects, and managed 21 projects in design and construction phases.

The [Hollings Marine Laboratory](#) (HML) in Charleston, S.C., is a \$8.9M project. The Laboratory is a world-class research facility with a mission to provide science and biotechnology applications to sustain, protect, and restore coastal ecosystems, with emphasis on links between environmental condition and the health of marine organisms and humans. Scientists at HML have powerful new technology available to them in the form of two world-class nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) instruments.

The \$3.3M [Hawaiian Island Humpback](#)



[Hollings Marine Laboratory](#) Charleston, S.C

[Whale National Marine Sanctuary](#) Multipurpose facility in Kihei consist of 5,900 GSF. This new facility is being constructed to address the immediate need to increase public outreach space from 50 to 100-person capacity for educational/lecture sessions, as well as increase office space to accommodate additional staff.

The \$2.4M [Northwest Fisheries Science Center](#) (NWFSC) modular building replacement project at Montlake, WA, campus is a 11,400 GSF, two-story modular office building, for the Northwest Fisheries Science Center. The new building provides much needed office space for 85 scientists and researchers engaged in mission critical work related to endangered

salmon, stressed ground fish stocks, and threatened salmon habitat. A modular building system was utilized for cost and time efficiencies. Other construction projects in FY2007 include: The Annette Weather Service Office WSO/UAIS, MD and the renovation of the NCCOS' Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR).

PPMD's **projects under construction** for FY2008 include :

The National Fisheries Service (NMFS) Laboratory, Pascagoula, Mississippi



[Pascagoula \(NMFS\) New Laboratory East Elevation](#) Artist rendering

(\$21.5M), the Oxford Renovation (\$2.2M), Princeton Asbestos Abatement(\$1.7M), Beaufort Mold Remediation (\$1.5M), HML Expansion-Furniture & IT (\$1.4), and Pascagoula Middle Dock (\$1.3M).

Some of the major **projects in planning/design** for FY 2008 include the following; [La Jolla Laboratory](#) consolidation project (replacement facility for NOAA Fisheries Southwest Fisheries Science Center) in San



Site of La Jolla NOAA Fisheries Southwest Fisheries Center

Diego, CA. The project is estimated to cost \$104M, will yield approximately 124,000 GSF, enough to accommodate 300 full-time personnel. This new facility will replace

Project Planning & Management Division Accomplishments in 2007 Cont.

the existing facility (at-risk to ongoing bluff erosion) and will continue to facilitate efficient and effective coordination among NOAA's three unique divisions located at the Laboratory: Fisheries Resources, Protected Resources, and Antarctic Ecosystem

Research; and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Other projects in the design phase include: wet-lab at NOAA's complex in Beaufort, NC, Barrow housing in Alaska, Nome housing, the new GLERL lab, and

the Gulf of Mexico Disaster Recovery Center.

For information contact:
Chien Le, Director PPMD
Dan Strandly, Chief Western Region PPMD
Roger Mc Collum, Chief Eastern Region PPMD.

2007 Logistics Support for NOAA Mission

NOAA LOST/MISSING/STOLEN LAPTOP PERSPECTIVE ONE YEAR LATER

NOAA /CAO logistics division has taken further steps in 2007 to strengthen personal property controls and employee accountability.

NOAA as part of an awareness campaign is using periodic email reminders, posting updated guidance and best practices on our personal property website.

Other measures and suggestions included, issuance of "hand receipts" for laptops, the refresh of laptop with desktop computers, and holding individual employees responsible for losses.

A Special Property Board of Review was established to scrutinize all losses for missing or stolen laptops, including those stolen from vehicles and those reported as discovered missing during inventories.

WRC SUPPORTS NOAA SHIPS

For the first time in its 23 year history,

NOAA's Western Regional Center provided moorage and ship support activities for NOAA Ships

RAINIER, MILLER FREEMAN, JOHN L. COBB, MCAURTHUR II, and ASSERTIVE.

In the aftermath of the pier fire at NOAA's Marine Operations Center – Pacific, OCAO's Buildings Management Branch stepped up to the call to support NOAA ship operations, providing pier and logistics support, utility services, crew accommodations, environmental management, and emergency preparedness.

MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

Western Regional Center

During FY 2007, Building Management Branch Seattle partnered with PPMD-W and Frasier and Fogle Architects to generate a master Plan for Western Region Center.

The Master Plan is comprised of following 5 phases:

1) Identify and document current and future space requirements;

- 2) Assess current facility conditions;
- 3) Develop alternative scenarios for meeting space needs;
- 4) Draft a campus master plan
- 5) Perform a NEPA process to validate the master plan.

The first phase final draft will be submitted once the review process has been completed. Currently, PPMD is performing a facility condition assessment review for WRC. Upon approval to proceed to subsequent tasks, the process will ultimately result in a master plan to guide the WRC for the next 20 years.

WRC COOPERATES with LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY and ANTI-TERRORIST TRAINING

OCAO and DOC OSY personnel in Seattle cooperate with local law enforcement and public safety staff in providing training to emergency responders. In the last year, the WRC campus was made available for an EPA sponsored multi-agency spill response, a Seattle Police Department SWAT training activity, the Federal Executive Board "Determined Accord" COOP Pandemic Exercise, and the King County Sheriff's Fast Rope Water Operations (see picture next page). These events demonstrate NOAA's cooperation and support of local governments, provide valuable training opportunities for NOAA emergency managers, and increase awareness of public safety issues and responsibilities among NOAA personnel.



NOAA Ships docked at Western Regional Center

Logistics, cont.



Seattle, WA Sheriff's Fast Rope Water Operations exercise

BOULDER BUILDING MANAGEMENT

The Boulder Building Management Branch completed another successful year in FY07.

All significant statistics concerning branch

performance were up from the previous year. The warehouse received/delivered more than 56,000 pieces of freight and shipped out nearly 5000 pieces of outgoing freight. The Storeroom and Publications reimbursable functions both completed the

fiscal year with a profit. The Branch oversaw two building evacuations and two SIP drill for the David Skaggs Research Center.

The COOP highlight of the year was a very successful hot test of re-locating the COOP Management Team to its alternate site in Wyoming.

The Employee Health Unit provided 19 health seminars, attended to nearly 2,100 employee visits, and responded to three employee emergencies on the site. One of the employee emergencies earned kudos for Chief Nurse Bonnie Hammel when she attended to an employee who had a stroke in the parking lot.

By Ezekiel Dennison, Logistics Division Director

CAO Supports Treasures of NOAA's Ark Exhibit in Seattle

BMB-Seattle provided logistical and storage support for the Treasures of NOAA's Ark Exhibit. OCAO employees Dean Lillibridge and Kevin Godfrey provided moving, storage, and staging support for the many heritage assets included in the Treasures Exhibit.

Audit Internal Control and Information Management Office, AICIMO

At the end of FY 2007, there were 28 Office of Inspector General (OIG) Governmental Accountability Office (GAO) audits underway across NOAA. Programs under review by these two external auditors include GOES-R, NPOESS, Fisheries Finance Loan Program, Atlantic Large Whale Protection Plan, Marine Mammal Protection, Climate Change, Coastal Zone Management, Marine Sanctuary Program, Aviation Weather, Urban Plume Modeling, and FISMA to name a few.

During FY 2007 NOAA was steadfast in implementing recommendations resulting from OIG and GAO audit reviews. Through collaborative NOAA efforts, we have reduced the total number of open OIG and GAO

recommendations from a high of 123 in FY 2005 to 31 in FY 2007, a **75% reduction** in open recommendations.

[The story gets even better!](#)

In FY 2007 AICIMO acquired an Audit Tracking System (ATS) for improved capabilities for monitoring open audit recommendations. This system, which will be linked to DOC's ATS, will greatly enhance the Line and Staff Offices' abilities to provide status updates on open recommendations and allow NOAA officials to stay informed about the progress of each audit review. The system is in the developmental phase and will be deployed in the

second quarter of FY 2008. "AICIMO administers the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Program within NOAA. During FY 2007, the FOIA staff processed over 500 FOIA requests for government information from both the public and private sectors. All requests were processed in compliance with DOC and NOAA policies that govern the release of information. The FOIA staff also accomplished two significant DOC goals in relation to the backlog of FOIA requests: 1) the ten oldest FOIA requests were closed, as required; 2) the FOIA backlog was reduced by 87%, far exceeding the DOC requirement of a 30% reduction. "

By Mack A. Cato, Director AICIMO

Deemed Export Compliance Program at NOAA

The OCAO developed procedures to identify controlled technology and track possible access to this technology by foreign nationals, thereby addressing the risk of export control non-compliance. A management model was established for deemed export compliance within NOAA to provide a framework for the OCAO, Department of Commerce Office of Security (OSY), NOAA General Counsel, and the Line Offices (LO) and Corporate Offices (CO) to comply with the EAR and related deemed export policies and procedures. Annual Certification requirements, a Research Tool, and a deemed exports website <http://deemedexports.noaa.gov/> were also created to ensure ongoing adherence to deemed exports policies and requirements. As a result of the program, NOAA has mitigated the risk of violation with the EAR. Also, NOAA was able to determine that no instances have been found thus far where a deemed export license was required for foreign national access to controlled technology.

NOAA promulgated NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 207-12, Technology Controls and Foreign National Access, on May 11, 2006. The OCAO developed NAO 207-12 to provide the policy guidelines to effectively administer and adhere to NOAA's deemed export compliance program requirements. In FY07, OCAO processed over 600 foreign national guests (in NOAA facilities over three days). The average processing was approximately two calendar days. While OSY provided final access approval, NOAA and OCAO provided critical assurances that no foreign national guests accessed facilities that were not cleared for export controlled technology.

NOAA values the contributions of international collaborations to the scientific and technological strength of the U.S. and to the success of NOAA's mission.

However, NOAA must balance this openness with the need to protect controlled

technology or source code subject to Export Administration Regulations (EAR) controls. Collaboration with foreign nationals is a means to facilitate interchange with NOAA's foreign scientific and technical counterparts in support of agency objectives and program goals.

During FY 2007, the OCAO continued to provide oversight and guidance for the Deemed Exports Compliance Program, implemented in late 2005 in response to an Office of the Inspector General report citing that NOAA did not have an export control policy to monitor foreign national access to controlled technology.

The Deemed Export Program balances this much needed role with the potential threat of foreign countries seeking to illegally acquire controlled U.S. technology that could be diverted to the development of weapons programs (dual-use technology).

In FY 2007, OCAO trained over 90 NOAA employees at the "Annual Deemed Export Training" and provided outreach presentations to NOAA's Cooperative Institutes Managers, NOAA's Homeland Security Program Office, and to attendees at the OAR Management Conference. OCAO closed out the first Annual Deemed Export Certification process which was implemented to evaluate NOAA's efforts of mitigating the risk of unauthorized release of controlled technology to foreign nationals at NOAA.



In FY07, OCAO also facilitated the technology transfer of DART buoy design specifications to Indonesia and the NESDIS technology transfer of SBUV source code to China by soliciting advice and concurrence from the Bureau of Industry and Security.

By Ann Murphy, Management Analyst

In May 2007, the OCAO Deemed Export team received a NOAA Bronze Medal "...for developing and implementing NOAA's deemed export compliance program, designed to prevent the unauthorized release of controlled technology to foreign nationals."

What is a Deemed Export?

A Deemed Export is any release of technology or source code subject to the Export Administration Regulations to a foreign national within the United States. Such a release is deemed to be an export to the home country of the foreign national.

What is HSPD-12 and how does it impact NOAA employees?

The Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12) is a Presidential requirement signed on August 27, 2004 requiring Federal agencies comply with mandatory government-wide standards for secure and reliable forms of identification for Federal employees and contractors.

These Personal Identification Verification (PIV) standards (FIPS 201.1) are issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and are designed to increase facility and computer security, reduce identity fraud, protect the personal privacy of those issued government identification, and ensure a safer work environment for all Federal employees and contractors. NOAA will use the Department of Defense's PIV-II compliant Common Ac-

cess Card (CAC) to meet the new badge requirements under HSPD-12. NOAA employees will get new badges in accordance with the Department of Defense's (DOD) implementation plan on a phased schedule for deployment of the software and hardware upgrades required to issue the PIV-II compliant CACs.

We expect initial issuance of the new badges beginning on or after March 1, 2008. NOAA employees will receive their CACs from one of the more than 900 Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS) stations around the country, including NOAA-operated RAPIDS stations in Silver Spring, MD and Seattle, WA.

The CAC issued to NOAA employees will have a NOAA logo to differentiate NOAA employees from active and retired military personnel and their dependents. NOAA's HSPD12 Task Force, comprised of representatives from Corporate Offices across NOAA, has been intimately involved in planning NOAA's overall HSPD-12 Implementation Plan, which is nearing completion.

NOAA is now forming a NOAA wide HSPD-12 Implementation Team, comprised of representatives from Line and Staff Offices, whose primary function will be to coordinate HSPD12 planning and implementation issues at the Line/Staff Office levels.

By Dana Shields, HSPD-12 PIV-II

Homeport Planning Process

In February 2007, OCAO and OMAO kicked off a joint effort to develop a NOAA Homeport Planning Process in order to establish an on-going integrated process which aligns facility and infrastructure investments with selected homeport sites. The OCAO and OMAO-led effort is being facilitated through a working group comprised of representatives of OCAO,

OMAO, NMFS, NOS, and OAR. The new NOAA Homeport Planning Process will be completed in time to align with the NOAA Fleet Modernization Plan efforts being led by OMAO.

By Lance Feiner,
Special assistant to CAO



Henry B. Bigelow

Safety by SECO

Reducing Energy Costs

The Safety and Environmental Compliance Office (SECO), RPFLO and NOAA Line Offices partnered with the Department of Energy (DOE) to reduce energy consumption NOAA-wide.

Environmental Abatement

As a pre-requirement for NOAA property transfer, SECO coordinated the abatement of environmental hazards, including asbestos and lead based paint, and facility restoration activities for a community Head Start facility and five residential units on St. Paul

Increasing the Safety Culture while reducing incidents

NOAA's comprehensive Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) program provides a healthful and safe workplace for our employees, contractors and neighbors. EHS has been successful in proactively implementing programs and processes to achieve greater worker protection and safeguards for our environment while providing flexibility which ensures the accomplishment of our NOAA mission.

By John Pierson, Supervisory Environmental Engineer



For more information, visit: www.energy.noaa.gov and www.noaa.seco.gov http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/servicesyhtpenergy_champions_detail.cfm?id=424

www.cao.noaa.gov

Civil Right Office Highlights One of their Favorite Yearly Event.....

Most NOAA employees associate the NOAA Civil Rights Office (COR) with the Discrimination Complaint Process and it is indeed where employees and applicants for employment go if they believe they have been victims of discrimination based on their race, color, sex or sexual orientation, national origin, religion and mental or physical disability.

In 2007, we handled 63 EEO counseling requests and 41 formal discrimination complaints.

What some people might not realize is that the COR is also involved in producing very popular Cultural Awareness Programs. During the past year we worked with Line Office EEO Program Managers and employee groups to produce programs such as the Black History Month Celebration, Women's History Month Training Conference, Asian Pacific American Programs and the Disability Awareness Training Conference.

Once again COR coordinated NOAA's very popular "Take Our daughters and Sons to Work Day".

This year over 600 youngsters from under 6 to 18 years old were registered. They learned about NOAA's mission and what it's

like to work here by participating in many hands-on activities. a sampling of the workshops include: Mapping the Skies; Coral Reef Ecology; Charting the Coasts; Extreme Weather; Climate Change Challenge; Be a Weatherman; Exploring the Earth from Space and; An ocean Career.

The day concluded with an Ice Cream So-

cial where NOAA's leadership served ice cream to the children and got to spend some fun time with them and their parents.

This is an educational exercise that supports NOAA's Environmental Literacy initiative and introduces hundreds of youngsters to the possibility careers in science.

By Alfred A. Corea, CRO Director



Take your kids to work day. Session on weather.

Real Property Management Division (RPMD)

GSA RENT PROGRAM

The GSA Rent Program of the Real Property Management Division has been extremely successful in managing NOAA's nationwide GSA assignment portfolio, which currently consists of nearly 200 space assignments for over 3.1 million square feet of space with an associated annual rent liability of over \$81.8 million. Throughout FY07, NOAA increased their GSA assignment portfolio by nearly 10%, as we added 268,517 rentable square feet and 473 parking spaces. The GSA Rent Program has been proactive in collecting all of NOAA's Occupancy Agreements, and in so doing, successfully recovered in excess of \$310K in rent and related charges for NOAA's

tenant Line Offices when the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and GSA over-charged NOAA due to billing discrepancies and errors. By accurately reconciling the \$81.8 million of annual rent liability and analyzing the GSA rent bills for discrepan-

cies and errors, the GSA Rent Program has proven to be an excellent steward of NOAA's nationwide GSA assignment portfolio.

Expansions to NOAA's Real Estate Inventory Through Services Provided in FY07 (RPMD)

- 17 Leased Buildings added to the inventory 58,871 sq ft — \$729,599 Annual Rent
- 16 New Owned Buildings added to the inventory 94,764 sq ft — \$67,175,122 Acquisition Cost
- 29 Leased Land Parcels added to the inventory — \$79,609 Annual Rent
- 1 Owned Land Parcel added to the inventory (WRC entrance area) — No cost
- 26 Leased Structures added to the inventory — \$311,647 Annual Rent

Real Property Management Division (RPMD)

Integrated facility inspection program (IFIP)

The 2007 Integrated Facility Inspection Program (IFIP) is underway and is scheduled to be completed by **November 2007**. The IFIP facility condition assessment program is now in its 3rd year. It was developed by RPFLD's Real Property Management Division in order to satisfy the requirements of OMB's Executive Order 13327 for agencies to be able to report on the condition of their real property portfolio. This year's survey involves approximately 620 properties which are both owned and leased by NOAA.

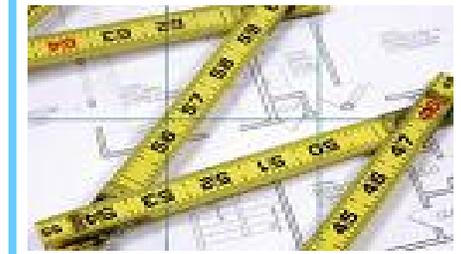
The IFIP survey requires employees from each Line Office (LO), called respondents, to complete an online questionnaire related to the current condition of various systems of the facility they are surveying. Their completed questionnaires are then reviewed by another LO official who verifies and approves the survey respondent's responses.

Software in the system takes the answers to the survey questions, and generates a cost estimate to correct problems identified. In 2006, the IFIP process was enhanced by improving the scope and clarity of the 39-question [standard] questionnaire, as well

as by developing a new 29-question set for surveying properties classified as equipment, warehouse or storage. Most leased properties received a very limited question set of 4 questions, including one related to safety and environmental compliance.

The deficiency costs identified by our 2006 IFIP survey totaled \$152.8M (\$141M for owned assets). This means that it would take an investment of that magnitude to restore the 670 properties surveyed. This compares to the \$98.6M (\$88.9M for owned assets) in building system deficiency requirement costs identified for the smaller portfolio of 368 occupied properties surveyed in our 2005 survey.

As part of the IFIP survey process, a facility condition index (FCI) is also calculated. The FCI is a metric whose derivation is the result of totaling the deficiency costs associated with a particular property, and then dividing that sum by the estimated cost to replace that same facility. The higher the FCI percentage, the better the condition of a facility; while the lower the FCI, the worse its condition appears to be.



The average FCI in 2006 for our DOC-owned assets, where we had full responsibility for ensuring the properties functionality through maintenance and restoration, was approximately 77 percent. In comparison, our FCI in 2005 was 79 percent. A property with an FCI lower than 84 is considered by us to be in poor condition. You can see from these FCI's that, overall, NOAA's properties are in poor condition and deteriorating. We would need a significant allocation and investment of funds to begin to address the repair requirements of NOAA's real property as identified in our past IFIP surveys.

By Andrew C. Duran, Director, RPMD

TMT - Transition Management Team

The Transition Management Team (TMT) leads assessment and business process reengineering (BPR) activities to strengthen NOAA's financial and administrative services. Using BPR methodologies, training, and technical expertise in cross organizational teams, TMT conducts assessments in four phases: **I** Training, **II** As Is Analysis, **III** Process Re-design, and **IV** Management Implementation.

In FY 07, TMT BPR Focused on:

Phase III Workforce (WFM) Business Process Redesign e.g., reducing time to hire a candidate, increasing the ability to fill positions with the most qualified candidates,

shifting focus of WFM functional area personnel from low value-added to high value-added activities that result in better utilization of tools and technology to improve effectiveness and efficiency of the Hiring process.

Phase IV Workforce Management Implementation, e.g., establishing a governance model and infrastructure for Training and Development (T&D), increasing the Agency's ability to perform workforce planning, compliance with new federal training regulations and reporting requirements, through tracking and reporting of employee T&D activities, cost, and type.

Phase III Acquisitions Business Process Redesign e.g., combining 18 different acquisition process flows into one process flow, identifying key processes for purchasing \$1 billion of goods and services annually through purchase card transactions; simplified acquisitions up to \$5M; and contracts, both negotiated and non-negotiated, of any dollar value, establishing a 17 member Acquisition Working Group for the BPR effort where no equivalent existed; this Working Group has representatives for the Line Offices, Corporate Offices, DOC, and External Clients (other DOC Bureaus).

TMT - Transition Management Team (cont'd)

Supporting the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Council's request for assistance with the FY07 Acquisitions surge. This surge resulted from the Mid Year Budget appropriation execution process. Assistance included: improving acquisition planning, policy and procedures, training and development, and communications, establishing an Acquisition Support Team to help administer the revised FY 07 acquisition process, monitoring over 10,000 Acquisition actions valued over \$1.2B to identify work at risk for not being executed in FY07.

Improved processes and procedures for Budget Execution, Grants Management, and Acquisition assisted NOAA in successfully obligating 99.3% of its \$4.178B FY07 budget, making FY07 NOAA's best Budget Execution year in recent years. Through improved planning and workload re-sequencing, the number of unplanned Grant actions fell from 193 in FY06 to 98 in FY07, a decrease of 48%.

Current BPR Efforts:

The FY07 Acquisition Action Plan led by TMT assisted NOAA in obligating \$1.048B

through the Acquisition and Grants Office, an 8.5% increase from FY06.

The Workforce Management BPR Phase IV implementation effort showed early results with the new Hiring process:

Filled 27% more vacancies in 4th quarter FY07 versus 1st Quarter while cutting three days from the cycle time to hire.

Decreased the average time to hire by three days per hire in 4th Quarter FY07 versus 1st Quarter, resulting in a savings of 216 work days.

For further information on TMT and its efforts check out our web page at: <https://inside.nos.noaa.gov/tmt/welcome.html> or call 301-713-0850.

Did you Know?

The artist [Jim Sanborn](#) wanted to demonstrate the great power of the ocean. The resulting work is a recreation of a section of the Atlantic coastline. The wave action demonstrated here is in "real time" which means that a NOAA monitoring station at Woods Hole, Massachusetts transfers instantaneous wave heights via modem to Silver Spring where they are transferred to the wave pool. The wave action is produced by a pneumatic pulse generated by a large blower and computer controlled valve located in the parking garage under the site. When the actual waves hit the coastline with 2' to 12' high surf, the waves in Silver Spring are proportionally scaled down to vary in height from 6 to 24 inches.



Water Sculpture in Silver Spring, MD by Jim Sanborn

Want to Know More?

Current information about the programs and accomplishments of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer can be found on the OCAO website:

<http://www.corporateservices.noaa.gov/~ocao/index.html>